

Thorpe Hall



Middleton Lane, Lofthouse, WF3

Why is it important?

Thorpe Hall is a Grade II* building. The rainwater heads are dated 1735 but the building incorporates some earlier fabric. The front view was built by Medcalf Proctor, replacing an earlier structure dating from the late 16th Century. The Proctor family coat of arms and crest is also missing from its original central position between the first and second floor windows. An engraving of Thorpe Hall, in its setting, can be seen in Thoresby's 'Ducatus'.

Building Description

This building is red brick with sandstone dressings (rendered at ground floor) and a slate roof. It is an L-shaped double-pile plan with rear service wing. There are three storeys and 5 bays, in Classical style. The central doorway is moulded architrave with scrolled consoles to a pediment on the band and there are vertical rectangular windows at ground and 1st floors with square windows on the 2nd floor. Near the front of each side wall, and in the angle to the rear, are lead downspouts with decorated rainwater heads lettered. Internally the rear wall of the service wing is part of a timber wall-post, wall-plate and brace of an earlier building. The axial passage between the front range and the service part leads to a very fine dog-leg staircase with open string, scrolled brackets and 2 balusters per tread. The principal rooms of the house on the 1st floor have exceptionally fine decoration and the right-hand front room is in a Classical style with shouldered architraves to doors, moulded fireplace and shouldered overmantel panel with broken pediment. Other wall panels have egg-and-dart surrounds and modillioned plaster cornice. There are two panelled rooms in rear part, partitioned by double-layer panelling, on the left with square bolection-moulded panels and fluted pilasters, and on the right in Renaissance style of late C16 or early C17 with fluted pilasters, richly-moulded frieze, and dentilled corni.

Current State

The building is in very poor condition with the majority of the window panes missing or damaged. The envelope appears to be in fair condition but close access was not available due to the building being on private land. The building is not watertight and signs of water ingress are visible.

Current Owner

The building is currently owned by an unidentified private owner.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1444801@N25/pool/tags/thorpehall>